



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## 14 districts receive STEM grants

*Program targets increasing participation and achievement of under-represented students*

MADISON—Fourteen grants totaling \$64,804 will support innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs targeted to students who are under-represented in those fields.

“Our technological future demands that more young people pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “These grants will help us attract students to STEM coursework through mentoring, peer support, and other activities that break down barriers to participation and boost academic achievement.”

Grant awards ranged from \$1,660 to the maximum, \$5,000. At least one activity in each funded project involves students. Projects include collaboration with another school district, two- or four-year college, business or industry, or community-based or nonprofit organization that serves youth. Additionally, projects receiving STEM grants must conduct a needs assessment and have goals and objectives that are measurable and contribute to closing achievement and participation gaps in STEM coursework. Under-represented students include economically disadvantaged students, English-language learners, females, students of color, and students with disabilities.

In a related activity, Wisconsin—along with California, Illinois, Missouri, and Oklahoma—are the first five states participating in the national STEM Equity Pipeline Project. The project is designed to attract more female students into STEM careers. Criteria for selecting states to participate in the project included: the adequacy of the states’ data collection and management systems to implement the process improvement model; geographic distribution; commitment to equity in STEM education as proven by prior performance and activities; and the diversity of systems and administrative structures. Thus, the STEM Equity Pipeline Project complements Wisconsin’s STEM grant program.

(more)

“The high-skill, high-wage careers in STEM fields should reflect the diversity of our schools and our global community. Wisconsin’s STEM grants and our participation in the national STEM Equity Pipeline Project will move us toward that goal,” Burmaster said.

In her 2007-09 budget, Burmaster requested funding to increase the participation and academic achievement of students, particularly under-represented students, in STEM subjects. Gov. Jim Doyle included the request in his budget, and the Legislature allocated \$61,500 annually for STEM grants to school districts. Burmaster allotted an additional \$3,304 from federal Carl Perkins non-traditional occupations funding to make up the \$64,804 grant total.

The Department of Public Instruction received grant requests totaling \$122,912, nearly double the annual allocation for grants. Grant recipients for projects to be completed by June 30, 2009, are

- Blair-Taylor School District, *RDR Robotics Design and Research*, \$5,000;
- Burlington Area School District, *Forest Fair*, \$5,000;
- Clayton School District, *Biotechnology-Age of Information*, \$4,982;
- Ellsworth Community School District, *Ellsworth STEM in Biology and Ag Collaboration*, \$5,000;
- Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau School District, *Black River Watershed Cooperative*, \$5,000;
- Kettle Moraine School District, *Girls Lego Competition Team*, \$5,000;
- Lac du Flambeau #1 School District, *Technology and Engineering Career Exploration*, \$5,000;
- Madison Metropolitan School District, *NSBE Jr. @ East High School and Beyond*, \$4,866;
- Mellen School District, *Podcasting Science in Society*, \$4,994;
- Oconto Falls School District, *Winter Science and Technology Academy*, \$5,000;
- Oregon School District, *OHS Innovative Math STEM Project*, \$5,000;
- River Valley School District, *Real Life STEM and Career Exploration*, \$3,592;
- Wausau School District, *Science LDOL*, \$1,660; and
- Wisconsin Heights School District, *Inquiry-Based Science Learning*, \$4,710.

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_109.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_109.pdf). Additional information about the national STEM Equity Pipeline Project, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation to the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity Education Foundation, is available at <http://www.stemequitypipeline.org/>.